

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 476

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas Allen Lupton Jr. of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Thomas (Tommy) Allen Lupton Jr. of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, instrumental in the development and growth of Chattanooga into the vibrant, prosperous city it is today, Thomas (Tommy) Allen Lupton Jr., was a distinguished civic leader, visionary developer, and esteemed businessman; and

WHEREAS, a Chattanooga native, Mr. Lupton was the first baby born at T.C. Thompson Children's hospital; he attended the Bright School, the Baylor School and Washington and Lee University; and

WHEREAS, after proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Navy, T. A. Lupton returned to Chattanooga in 1954 to work for Stone Fort Land Company, which was founded in 1896; and

WHEREAS, a dynamic and visionary businessman, Mr. Lupton headed the Stone Fort Land Company for many years, selling the business in later life to future Chattanooga Mayor and United States Senator Bob Corker who shared his dreams of a bright future for Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, at one time the premier developer in Chattanooga and one of the Southeast's most active builders, T. A. Lupton left behind a string of landmarks, namely the Krystal and Tallan Buildings and Heritage Landing, as well as many other developments, including the Emerson Building, the City of Chattanooga Office Building, the Riverside Center,

the Olan Mills Building, the Continental, the Lyndhurst community, Hidden Brook, and Ramsgate, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, he played an integral role in the growth and revitalization of Chattanooga, arranging the gift of land that made Chattanooga State Technical Community College a reality and donating land on Amnicola Highway to create the wonderful Riverwalk; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton constructed buildings for E.I. du Pont deNemours Company in Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia, in addition to Chattanooga; he developed an 800-acre site near Atlanta, Georgia, and a 900-acre subdivision in Nashville with the Southern Land Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton was a proud graduate of the Baylor School, and during his thirty-five year tenure on its board of trustees he shared his expertise by overseeing major building and grounds expansions at the school; his phenomenal and unwavering commitment to the school was an inspiration to his fellow board members who deeply admired his many years of exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, a valued board member of numerous civic and charitable organizations, he lent his time and talents to the Salvation Army, the YMCA, the Chattanooga Heart Association, American Red Cross, and Goodwill Industries, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, honored in 1961 as the Jaycees Man of the Year, Mr. Lupton was a former president of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the board of SunTrust Bank, The Mountain City Club, The Bright School, as well as the Baylor School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton was an active and devout member of First Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as chairman of the board of deacons; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman who single-handedly cleared the Eagle's Nest Park on the side of Lookout Mountain after decades of neglect, Tommy Lupton perhaps enjoyed most the time he spent in duck blinds with friends and family from Arkansas to Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, a kind, gracious, and compassionate gentleman who was a friend to all of Chattanooga, Thomas Allen Lupton Jr. possessed a genuine interest in others, an indomitable spirit, and a wonderful gift of humor and charm that endeared him to all those fortunate to have made his acquaintance; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his devoted wife, Beth Marley Lupton, and their three children and their spouses, Kimbriel (Kim) Lupton Strang and husband Ewing, Beth Lupton Crimmins and husband Ryan, and Thomas Allen Lupton III and wife Naomi; and seven grandchildren, Brad Strang, Leland Strang, Ryan Crimmins, Conley Crimmins, Bryson Crimmins, Hannah Lupton, and Thomas Allen Lupton IV; and

WHEREAS, he will be sadly mourned, but fondly remembered, by his siblings and their spouses, Fred W. Lupton and wife Jane, and Betty Lou Maddin Lupton McCallie and husband David, along with a number of nieces and nephews and a host of dear friends and extended family members; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, businessman, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas (Tommy) Allen Lupton Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Lupton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.